

Simsbury Public Library - Board of Trustees
TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 20, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.
Simsbury Public Library – Weatogue Room

Present:

Mary Glassman, Greg Golinski, President of the Friends of the Library; Tolly Gibbs, Holly McGrath, Linda Johnson, Kathleen Miller, and Polly Rice. As well as Susan Ray, Head of Adult Services at the Simsbury Public Library, and Mary Richardson, Teen Services Librarian at the Simsbury Public Library.

Lisa Karim, Director of Simsbury Public Library and Susan Rubenstein were absent.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Polly Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: Ms. Miller made a motion to add a discussion of Library Material Challenge to the Agenda. Ms. Rice seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Johnson nominated Kathleen Miller for Chair of the Library Board of Trustees and felt that her length of residency and volunteer work, an example being former President of the Friends of the Library. Her dedication to giving back to the town has been evident.

Motion: Ms. Johnson made a motion to accept Kathleen Miller as Chair of the Library Board of Trustees. Ms. Glassman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Gibbs nominated Polly Rice for Vice Chair of the Library Board of Trustees and feels that her long experience in service for the Board makes her a good candidate.

Motion: Ms. Gibbs made a motion to accept Polly Rice as Vice Chair of the Library Board of Trustees. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rice nominated Holly McGrath as Secretary of the Library Board of Trustees, as she has been a contributing member of the Board.

Motion: Ms. Rice made a motion to accept Holly McGrath as Secretary of the Library Board of Trustees. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Miller stated that Ms. Rice is appointed the liaison between the Library Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Library Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-November 15, 2021

Ms. Gibbs commented that there should not be an apostrophe in “Friends”. She also commented that the last sentence in the Director’s Report, “The candidate either just graduated with or Master’s in Library Science or will be graduating soon,” did not read effectively.

Motion: Ms. McGrath made a motion to accept the minutes for the November 15, 2021 Meeting as amended. Ms. Rice seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Glassman abstained from approval because she was not present at that meeting.

Approval of the 2022 Meeting Dates

Ms. Miller confirmed that the January 3, 2022 meeting has been canceled due to the annual budget schedule. The new meeting date is January 18, 2022.

Motion: Ms. Gibbs made a motion to adopt the Meeting Calendar. Ms. McGrath seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Mark Orenstein attended. He wanted to inform the Board that the grant needed for PEGPETIA has a deadline for January 31, 2022. Ms. Miller responded that they would put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Miller read a card from Heather Goetz who had sent her letter of resignation to be able to accept her position on the Board of Selectman. In the card Ms. Goetz expressed gratitude for her experience that allowed her to understand the needs of Simsbury’s Library and residents, as well as her appreciation for the members of the Library Board of Trustees.

Ms. Miller read a card from Marianne O’Neil thanking the Library Board for the donation of books to the Library collection in her name, and for their friendship.

Ms. Miller brought a news article on the Library’s Book Bike and a news article on the Friends of the Library and its annual book sale to be passed around.

FRIENDS REPORT

Mr. Golinski stated that the Friends sent Ms. O’Neil flowers showing their gratitude for her service.

Mr. Golinski stated that the Friends did not have their monthly meeting because last Thursday they had their Celebration Lunch for the Simsbury Public Library employees.

Mr. Golinski said that Ms. O'Neil would be joining the Friends of the Library, so she is still serving the Library just in a different capacity.

CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Ms. Miller stated that there were a couple changes since last month's meeting. She stated that the Library Board of Trustees are presenting the new Strategic Plan to the Board of Selectmen, and they will be waiting until Lisa Karim, the Director of the Library, is able to attend the presentation.

Ms. McGrath commented that the library planned to print postcards, but that funds needed to be approved. A proposal for the printing and postage of the postcards should be on next month's agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

LIBRARY MATERIAL CHALLENGE

Ms. Miller stated that someone approached the Library with concern about a particular book. Susan Ray, the Head of Adult Services at the Simsbury Public Library and Ms. Richardson, the teen Librarian at Simsbury Public Library explained the Simsbury Public Library's policy and procedures for responding to complaints regarding materials. Ms. Ray discussed the procedure for filing a formal written and signed complaint. She also explained the two types of challenges: verbal, where someone comes into the Library and says they do not like a material, and they want it removed; and the formal process. Ms. Richardson discussed the issue from the perspective of teens. She also discussed a movement to target particular books in both public and school library collections. Ms. Glassman inquired if the process for receiving a complaint reflects the fairest objective process possible. Ms. Ray responded that they look at it frequently to make sure that it is updated. Copies of all written complaints and the Library Director's responses are shared with the Library Board of Trustees.

Ms. McGrath made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Gibbs seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Blaze
Commission Clerk